

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 198

Introduced by Assembly Member Beall

January 27, 2011

An act relating to adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 198, as introduced, Beall. Adoption: fingerprinting of adoptive parents.

Existing law requires a criminal records check and fingerprint clearance of applicants for a license, special permit, or certificate of approval for a foster family home or certified family home. Existing law requires the court or county social worker, when a child is placed in the home or a relative or a prospective guardian who is not a licensed or certified foster parent, to cause a criminal records check and fingerprint clearance to be conducted on that person. Existing law also requires the State Department of Social Services or licensed adoption agency to require each person filing an application for adoption to be fingerprinted and to secure the person's full criminal record, if any.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to eliminate or reduce any unnecessary duplication of fingerprint clearances for prospective adoptive parents, and would make related findings.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) It is the expressed intent of the Legislature that the goal for
4 dependent children is to expedite legal permanency with relative
5 caregivers or through adoption when reunification with the child's
6 parents is unsuccessful.

7 (b) Currently, California laws and regulations require a foster
8 parent who wishes to adopt a child in his or her care to submit
9 duplicate fingerprint images, leading to additional costs,
10 inefficiencies, and delays in achieving the stated goal of
11 permanency for dependent children.

12 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to
13 eliminate or reduce any unnecessary duplication of fingerprint
14 clearances for prospective adoptive parents, provided that the safety
15 and well-being of adoptive children is ensured.